

Executive Ethics Board News

Mike Connelly, Chair
Matthew Williams III, Vice Chair
Linnaea Jablonski, Member
Lisa Marsh, Member

September 9, 2011

The Executive Ethics Board (Board) met on Friday, September 9, 2011. Ms. Jablonski was absent; all other members were present. Others attending included: Melanie de Leon, Executive Director, Ruthann Bryant, Board Secretary, Bruce Turcott, Board Counsel and Linda Dalton, Senior Assistant Attorney General. Members of the public also attended.

Enforcement

- The Board found Reasonable Cause in EEB Cases 2010-004 (Drake), 2011-002 (Stricklett) and 2011-015 (Stewart).
- The Board found no Reasonable Cause that a violation had occurred in EEB Case 2011-008 (Hammond et.al.)

In lieu of an enforcement hearing, the Board accepted a stipulation from:

John Hernandez, an employee of Spokane Falls Community College for using state resources for personal gain. Evidence showed that Mr. Hernandez used his state computer for non-work related matters and filed time sheets that did not accurately reflect his actual contracted work time. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$1,000.

Board Action:

A. The Board reviewed and approved with minor edits, five agency policies regarding ethics in general, use of electronic systems and social media. Approved versions will be uploaded to the Board's website at www.ethics.wa.gov.

B. The Board revised Advisory Opinion 03-02 to expand the language to include the ability for all elected officials to use state resources when appointed to a statewide voter's pamphlet committee in order to draft arguments that oppose or support a ballot proposition.

C. The Board delayed the repeal of Advisory Opinion 00-11 that currently allows businesses to use state facilities to provide employees with information about insurance products that qualify for voluntary employee payroll deduction. Board staff will provide further research on this issue for the Board to discuss at their November 2011 meeting. Until that time, the current opinion remains in affect.

Meeting agendas can be found at www.ethics.wa.gov under "Meetings."

The next meeting of the Executive Ethics Board is scheduled for November 18, 2011